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Hearing May Lay Bare Data on CIA

Another chapter unfolds today in the slander suit which a federal judge says "might expose the entire U. S. counter-espionage apparatus."

The new session was the latest in a series of pre-trial hearings in the \$110,000 suit filed two years ago in U. S. District Court here by Erik Heine against Juri Raus.

Both are natives of Estonia. Heine, 46, of Rexdale, Ont., charges that Raus, 39, of Hyattsville, slandered him by calling him an agent of the K.G.B., the Soviet secret police.

The ultra-secret Central Intelligence Agency, in an April 1 affidavit, identified Raus as one of its paid agents and said he had made the statements about Heine at its direction.

THE REASON, said the affidavit signed by CIA Deputy Director Richard Helms, was "to protect the integrity of the agency's foreign intelligence sources."

"... It would be contrary to the national interest," said Helms, "and would further compromise the proper protection of intelligence sources and methods to disclose further information..."

Lawyers for Raus contend in a motion for dismissal that he is invulnerable to the slander charge for any acts performed by him as

a CIA employe, "even under a showing of malice."

Heine's lawyers replied that Raus' connection with the CIA did not become known until so long after the suit was filed that it was unfair to bring such a new factor into the case at this stage.

AT AN APRIL 14 hearing, the judge set today's hearing in an attempt to determine whether the CIA might be able to shed more light on the complex matter.

"If further information were revealed," he added, however, "it might expose the entire U. S. counter-espionage apparatus."

Raus, now a \$10,600-a-year engineer for the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, is also head of the Legion of Estonian Liberation, Inc., an Estonian veterans organization.

Heine stated in an earlier hearing that he was imprisoned by Communists several times for opposing them in Estonia in the 1940s, was tortured, was sentenced to death and escaped.

He said he was highly respected by the Legion of Estonian Liberation and his reputation among its members was damaged by Raus' statements about him on three occasions.